

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BIGFORK COUNTY
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

The General meeting of the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District was held on December 14, 2022, at 1:00 pm at the district office. Board Vice President Price presided.

ATTENDEES:

Directors: Jerry Turley, Seth Price, Alida Tinch, Eugene Helberg, Tom Cahill (via Zoom)
District: Sergio Lopez, Tyler Hantz, Cindy Inabnit, Luisa Generoso, Julie Spencer (via Zoom)
Engineering: Ben Miller, Morrison-Maierle, Jeff Cicon P.E, Morrison-Maierle (via Zoom)
Public: Joan Davis, Mel Peterson, Paul Holland

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment: None.

READ AND APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 9, 2022, General Board Meeting were reviewed for approval. Price called for a motion to approve the minutes. Turley made a motion to approve the minutes. Helberg seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the November 9, 2022, Board Meeting be approved.

READ AND APPROVE AGENDA

Price asked for discussion. Spencer reminded everyone that the motions to approve the Agenda should be separate from the Consent Agenda. Tinch made a motion to approve the Agenda, separate from the Consent Agenda. Turley seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the Agenda be approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Price asked for discussion, no further discussion. Tinch called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Turley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Helberg seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the Consent Agenda be approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Operator's Report: Lopez gave the report. He explained that the snow and wind driven power outages in the 2nd and 3rd weeks of November prompted him to call the general manager of Flathead Electric. He was told that because we are not a municipality and with fewer homes serviced, we are not high on the priority list for power restoration. Power was eventually restored after 36 hours. Lopez also broached the idea of having a smaller tank to shuttle fuel to our smaller lift stations in the event a similar situation arises in the future.

Due to the nature of our lift stations, the Board has decided to write a letter to Flathead Electric to make them aware of our need for immediate power restoration during outages.

Congratulations went out to Inabnit for passing his wastewater exam.

Price called for a motion to approve the Operator's Report. Turley made a motion to approve the Operator's Report. Tinch seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the Operator's Report be approved.

Engineering Update:

Task Order #37: Water Tank and Transmission Line Project:

- S&L has completed the necessary hydrostatic (leak) testing and has placed the tank into service. They have also completed backfilling on the uphill side of the tank. The controls have been integrated into the SCADA, but there are a few bugs we are working on with operations. These include issues with the existing transducer on the Windsor Tank and the hydraulic valve that controls the water level on the new tank.
- A stop work order was issued on November 30, 2022. Remaining work includes the installation of the access stairs and paving the Pierce driveway and tank access road.
- S&L has submitted Application for Payment #11 for completed work to-date. Morrison-Maierle has reviewed the application and determined it to be correct and complete.

Board Action Item: Payment Application #11 to S&L Underground, Inc. The Board has the following options:

- 1. Approve Payment Application #11 to S&L Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$111,778.42 (+ \$1,129.08 Gross Receipts Tax).*
- 2. Other as recommended by the Board.*

Cicon reported that the Ice Box Tank is now online, but the stairs are still backordered.

Price asked for a motion to approve Payment Application #11 to S&L Underground, Inc. in the amount of \$111,778.42 plus \$1,129.08 gross receipts tax. Tinch made a motion to approve Payment Application #11 to S&L Underground, Inc. for \$111,778.42 plus \$1,129.08 gross receipts tax. Helberg seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That Payment Application #11 to S&L Underground Inc in the amount of \$111,778.42 plus \$1,129.08 gross receipts tax be approved.

Task Order #39: Preliminary Engineering Report Update & Sewer Modeling

- We performed a quality assurance review of the model and updated the report accordingly.

Funding Applications:

- **Montana Coal Endowment Program (MCEP):** Submitted May 19, 2022, allocated by the State Legislature. West Trunk Sewer is ranked #22 of 40 applicants. We have a ranking review call with MCEP staff at 3:30 on December 14. Anticipated award: Summer 2023.
- **DNRC-RRGL:** Submitted May 16, 2022, allocated by the State Legislature. West Trunk Sewer is ranked #17 of 50 applicants. Anticipated award: Summer 2023.
- **SRF:** SRF currently has 75% loan forgiveness on projects.

Development Review

The following table provides an update on the development projects in the District.

Development	Plan Status	Project Status
The Settlement	Approved by MMI MDEQ Approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-construction conference held on 11/2/2021 and 10/6/2022• Bonding letter has not been received; status is unknown.• Started construction on the sewer system• Morrison-Maierle stopping by periodically in conjunction with the tank project.
The Fort Subdivision	Approved by MMI MDEQ Approved	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pre-construction meeting on 8/30/20222. Construction has started, Morrison Maierle stopping by periodically in conjunction with the tank project.
Ridgeview Lot 5	Reviewed by MMI No MDEQ Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed plans and responded in a letter dated 1/31/2022.• Reviewed the resubmittal on 3/31/2022 and provided comments to Julie.• Waiting on MDEQ approval.
Saddlehorn No. 13	Not Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met with Mike Fraser and Doug Peppmeier with TDH on 3/15/2022• No plans have been submitted.
North Shore Woods	Not Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Received updated preliminary water and sewer layouts. Layouts appear to be consistent with previous discussions.
Flansburg Force Main	Not Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed preliminary alignment, no plans have been submitted.

Cicon is to contact the engineer for the Fort Subdivision regarding several visible open excavations around the area.

Cicon also indicated that a task order is now available for the proposed facility/building at The Farm. Cahill wants the Construction Committee to go over the task order and plans and discuss these before taking it up with the Board at a later date.

Price called for a motion to approve the Engineer's Report. Tinch made a motion to approve the Engineer's Report. Turley seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the Engineer's Report be approved.

Water Rights/Water Compact:

Per Spencer, the original deadline to file an appeal on the Water Rights/Water Compact has been moved from December 2 to February 9, 2023. Spencer has advised caution regarding such an appeal. On the one hand, filing an appeal may bring about increased legal fees to BFWS. On the flip side, should water ever become a commodity for sale due to scarcity, we may not have a voice to go against it because we did not file an appeal. Further discussion to ensue in the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MACO Insurance

MACO is no longer going to insure Water and Sewer Districts after June 2023. The BFWS insurance agent is looking into the possibility of Water and Sewer Districts banding together to get more favorable rates. Spencer is looking at options available to BFWS.

LIHWAP Assistance Program

BFWS is now participating in the program. Customers who are approved can get assistance for part of their water and sewer bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- BFWS must see to it that the RV Resort Park is compliant with the recommendations of the DEQ.
- Employee Compensation
Inabnit has passed his wastewater examination which made him eligible for a wage increase.

- Rules and Regulations – no further discussion

Price asked for a motion to approve the Rules and Regulations. Turley made a motion to approve the Rules and Regulations. Tinch seconded, and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the Rules and Regulations be approved.

- Farmland
Per Cahill, the farm building construction will be discussed during the construction meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Mr. Peterson spoke in detail about his water/pressure problems, having to call a plumber and requesting reimbursement for his plumber's fee. Helberg had suggested that the Board discuss this matter when Spencer (District Manager) gets back in the office. The Board and Mr. Peterson were all in agreement.

Price called for the public meeting to be adjourned. Tinch made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Turley seconded and it was unanimously,

RESOLVED, That the public meeting be adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Acting Secretary, Julie Spencer

Minutes approved by:

President, Tom Cahill